

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicant elects Species C, shown in FIG. 17, with Claims 20, 21, 22 and 24 readable thereon, and Claims 14-16 being generic, and respectfully traverses the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

As an initial matter, it is respectfully submitted that at least Species D (FIG. 25, Claims 25 and 26) should be grouped with Species C as Claim 26 is dependent on Claim 20, and the feature recited in Claim 25 is the same feature recited in Claim 26.

Moreover, it is believed that any search for the Species embodied in FIG. 17 would necessarily include a search of the Species embodied in the remaining FIGS. Thus, a simultaneous search for all of the Species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

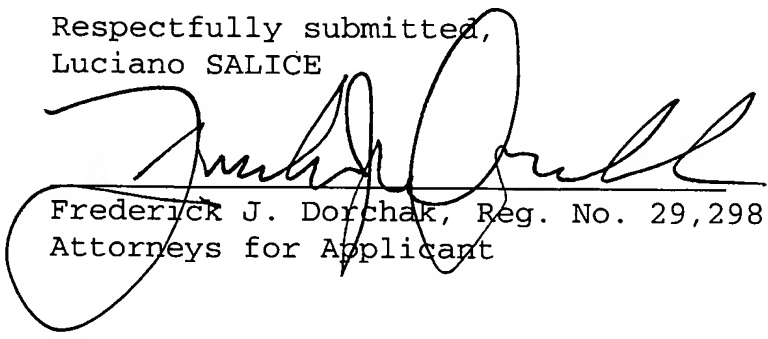
In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the Species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in

this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected species.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and that an action on the merits of all the Claims be rendered.

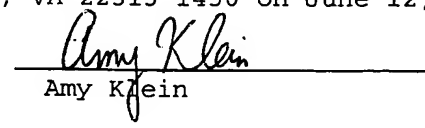
Respectfully submitted,
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